

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS, COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS
IN ASCENDING ORDER WITH STATUS INDICATOR**

Please amend the following claims as indicated.

Claims 1-13 (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) A reagent for determining amino acid sequence of protein or peptide, which comprises the metal complex according to claim-17.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for determining amino acid sequence of protein or peptide, which comprises using the metal complex according to claim-17.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for determining amino acid sequence of protein or peptide, which comprises

reacting the metal complex according to claim-17 with a protein or peptide (A) of which the amino acid sequence is to be determined, to form a derivative (B) of said metal complex where the covalent bond of the functional group of the metal complex with the amino group of the N-terminal amino acid residue of the protein or peptide (A) or with the carboxyl group of the C-terminal amino acid residue of protein or peptide is formed, and

analyzing the derivative (B) through mass spectrometry,

wherein the derivative comprises said metal complex covalently bonded via a functional group on said metal complex to either the amino group of the N-terminal amino acid residue or the carboxyl group of the C-terminal amino acid residue of said protein or peptide.

17. (Currently Amended) A metal complex for determining amino acid sequence of protein or peptide, said metal complex comprising a functional group which has a property of forming a covalent bond with an amino group of an N-terminal amino acid residue of protein or peptide,

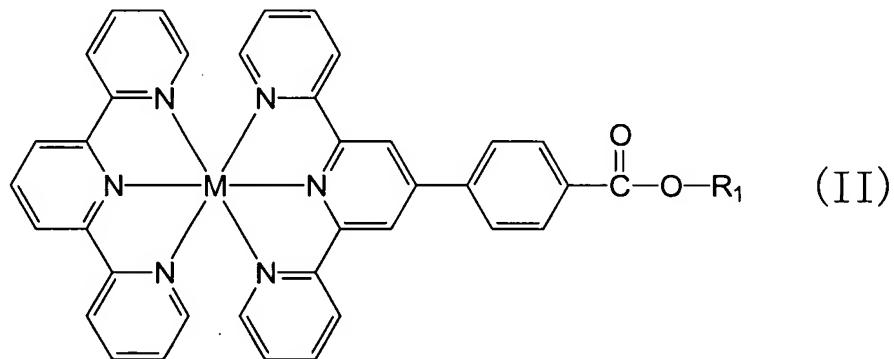
wherein the covalent bond to be formed between the amino group of the N-terminal amino acid residue of protein or peptide and the functional group is not cleaved in a stage of ionization in mass spectrometry,

wherein the metal complex is represented by the following general formula (I):

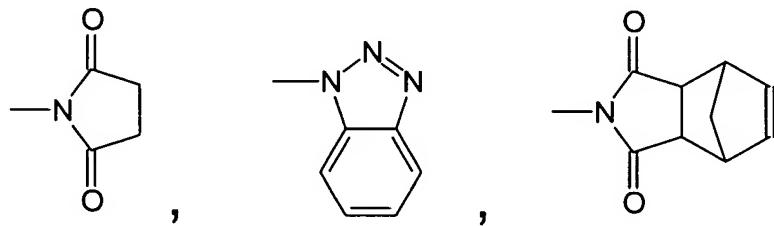


wherein M represents a transition metal; L₁ represents a ligand having a substituent:—CO—OR₄ (where R₄ represents H or an active ester-forming group) or -R₂-CO—OR₁ (where R₂ represents an arylene or a phenylene group, R₁ represents H or an active ester-forming group); L₂ represents a ligand; m is a number of L₂, indicating 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5.

18. (Previously Presented) The metal complex according to claim 17, which is represented by the following general formula (II):



wherein M represents a transition metal; and R₁ represents H or an active ester-forming group represented by any of the following formula:



19. (Currently Amended) A metal complex for determining amino acid sequence of protein or peptide, said metal complex comprising a functional group which has a property of forming a covalent bond with a carboxyl group of a C-terminal amino acid residue of protein or peptide, wherein the functional group is -NHNH₂

wherein the covalent bond to be formed between the carboxyl group of the C-terminal amino acid residue of protein or peptide and the functional group is not cleaved in a stage of ionization in mass spectrometry,

wherein the metal complex is represented by the following general formula (III):



wherein M represents a transition metal; L₃ represents a ligand having a substituent: -R₂-NH₂ or -R₂-NHNH₂ (where R₂ represents a phenylene group); L₂ represents a ligand; m is a number of L₂, indicating 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Currently Amended) A method for determining amino acid sequence of protein or peptide, which comprises

reacting a metal complex which comprises a functional group which has a property of forming a covalent bond with an amino group of an N-terminal amino acid residue of protein or peptide or with a carboxyl group of a C-terminal amino acid residue of protein or peptide, with a protein or peptide (A) of which the amino acid sequence is to be determined, to form a derivative (B) of said metal complex where the covalent bond of the functional group of the metal complex with the amino group of the N-terminal amino acid residue of the protein or peptide (A) or with the carboxyl group of the C-terminal amino acid residue of protein or peptide is formed, and

analyzing the derivative (B) of said metal complex through mass spectrometry,

wherein the derivative comprises said metal complex covalently bonded via a functional group on said metal complex to either the amino group of the N-terminal amino acid residue or the carboxyl group of the C-terminal amino acid residue of said protein or peptide.

22. (New) A reagent for determining amino acid sequence of protein or peptide, which comprises the metal complex according to claim 19.

23. (New) A method for determining amino acid sequence of protein or peptide, which comprises using the metal complex according to claim 19.

24. (New) A method for determining amino acid sequence of protein or peptide, which comprises

reacting the metal complex according to claim 19 with a protein or peptide (A) of which the amino acid sequence is to be determined, to form a derivative (B) of said metal complex where the covalent bond of the functional group of the metal complex with the amino group of the N-terminal amino acid residue of the protein or peptide (A) or with the carboxyl group of the C-terminal amino acid residue of protein or peptide is formed, and

analyzing the derivative (B) through mass spectrometry,

wherein the derivative comprises said metal complex covalently bonded via a functional group on said metal complex to either the amino group of the N-terminal amino acid residue or the carboxyl group of the C-terminal amino acid residue of said protein or peptide.